

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION
LEGISLATIVE BILL 144

Introduced By: McDonald, 41;
Read first time: January 8, 2007
Committee: Health and Human Services

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to public health and welfare; to adopt the
2 Hepatitis C Education and Prevention Act; and to declare an
3 emergency.
4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
2 Hepatitis C Education and Prevention Act. This act terminates on
3 December 31, 2007.

4 Sec. 2. The Hepatitis C Education and Prevention Task Force
5 is created and shall consist of eighteen members as follows:

6 (1) The chairperson of the Health and Human Services
7 Committee of the Legislature or his or her designated representative;

8 (2) A member of the Legislature appointed by the Executive
9 Board of the Legislative Council;

10 (3) A disease prevention and health promotion administrator
11 designated by the Director of Health and Human Services;

12 (4) The state hepatitis coordinator designated by the
13 Director of Health and Human Services;

14 (5) A state surveillance officer designated by the Director
15 of Health and Human Services;

16 (6) A behavioral health specialist designated by the
17 Director of Correctional Services;

18 (7) A medical provider designated by the Director of
19 Correctional Services;

20 (8) A representative of the State Department of Education
21 designated by the Commissioner of Education;

22 (9) A representative of the Department of Veterans' Affairs
23 designated by the Director of Veterans' Affairs; and

24 (10) Nine members appointed by the Governor as follows:

25 (a) A representative of a public health association;

26 (b) A representative of a rural health association;

27 (c) A registered nurse licensed to practice in Nebraska;

1 (d) A pharmacist licensed to practice in Nebraska;

2 (e) A primary care physician licensed to practice in
3 Nebraska;

4 (f) A primary care nurse practitioner licensed to practice
5 in Nebraska;

6 (g) A physician assistant licensed to practice in
7 Nebraska;

8 (h) A laboratory professional; and

9 (i) A resident of Nebraska affected by hepatitis C.

10 Sec. 3. (1) The appointed members of the Hepatitis C
11 Education and Prevention Task Force shall be appointed on or before
12 May 1, 2007. The chairperson of the Health and Human Services
13 Committee of the Legislature or his or her designated representative
14 shall serve as chairperson of the task force.

15 (2) The Health and Human Services Committee of the
16 Legislature shall provide research and administrative support for the
17 task force. For budgetary purposes only, the task force shall be
18 within the Legislative Council.

19 Sec. 4. (1) The Hepatitis C Education and Prevention Task
20 Force shall meet at the call of the chairperson of the task force.

21 (2) Members shall not receive compensation for service on
22 the task force but may be reimbursed for expenses as provided in
23 sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

24 Sec. 5. The Hepatitis C Education and Prevention Task Force
25 shall develop a comprehensive strategic plan to address the increasing
26 epidemic of hepatitis C in Nebraska. The plan shall include, but not
27 be limited to:

1 (1) Development of a proposal to promote public awareness
2 and education about the epidemic of hepatitis C;

3 (2) Development of educational opportunities targeting
4 health care professionals regarding the epidemic of hepatitis C;

5 (3) Development of collaborative strategies among state
6 agencies to address the needs of persons at risk for or affected by
7 the epidemic of hepatitis C; and

8 (4) Evaluation of funding sources available to address the
9 epidemic of hepatitis C.

10 Sec. 6. The Hepatitis C Education and Prevention Task Force
11 shall report on its activities and recommendations for policies and
12 potential legislation to the Governor and to the Health and Human
13 Services Committee of the Legislature on or before December 31,
14 2007.

15 Sec. 7. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect
16 when passed and approved according to law.